

#### **USDA Foreign Agricultural Service**

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### **Finland**

# Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

# **Export Certificate Report**

### 2006

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#### **Report Highlights:**

As a member of the European Union (EU), Finland fully applies EU regulations on export certificates. In addition to certificates required by the EU, there are specific sanitary certificate requirements with regard to salmonella imports of fresh meat, meat preparations and eggs into Finland.

Includes PSD Changes: No Includes Trade Matrix: No Unscheduled Report Stockholm [SW1]

#### SECTION I. EXPORT CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY FINLAND

Being a member of the European Union (EU), Finland fully applies EU export certificate regulations. Required certificate details are set out in specific legislation, including models of the certificates to be used. The U.S. Mission to the European Union's EU Certification Guide (<a href="http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/Certification Guide.html">http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/Certification Guide.html</a>) lists the required export certificates in EU.

In addition to certificates required by the EU, Finland has one specific certificate requirement. Finland requires an additional salmonella guarantee (health certificate) for fresh meat from bovine and poultry animals, fresh poultry meat and table eggs imported in Finland.

Product	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Meat including minced meat	Commercial document for the consignment to Finland and Sweden of meat from bovine or porcine animals or meat from poultry, including minced meat	<ul> <li>The Salmonella checks have been carried out with negative results and the statement from laboratory analyses is attached to certificate</li> <li>Meat is intended for an establishment for the purposes of pasteurization, sterilization or treatment having similar effect</li> <li>Meat comes from an establishment that is subject to a control program recognized as equivalent to that approved in Finland</li> </ul>	Salmonella guarantee	Finnish Food Safety Authority EVIRA (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.)
Eggs	Certificate for the consignment to Finland and Sweden of eggs intended for human consumption	<ul> <li>The eggs originated from a flock which has been subjected to the checks has had negative Salmonella results</li> <li>The eggs are destined to be used for the manufacture of processed products by a process that guarantees the elimination of salmonella</li> </ul>	Salmonella guarantee	Finnish Food Safety Authority EVIRA (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.)

#### SECTION II. PURPOSE OF SPECIFIC EXPORT CERTIFICATES

Salmonella is the most common reason for food poisoning and it causes significant national health problems in some countries. Finland, Sweden and Norway are exceptions, because salmonella infections in production animals are rare. Finland has also a very efficient monitoring system for animals and food of animal origin in order to prevent salmonella infections. Therefore, Finland is allowed to require additional guarantees for salmonella controls of imported food such as fresh meat from bovine and poultry animals, fresh poultry meat and table eggs. The purpose of specific salmonella guarantees is to protect the consumer.

In addition, the purpose of specific salmonella guarantees is to ensure that certain analytical and sampling methods are applied in countries exporting to Finland. The following regulations lay down basic rules for sampling and analysis:

- 95/409/EC: Council Decision on the rules for the microbiological testing by sampling of fresh beef and veal and pig meat intended for Finland and Sweden
- 95/411/EC: Council Decision on the rules for the microbiological testing for salmonella by sampling of fresh poultry meat intended for Finland and Sweden
- 2003/470/EC: Commission Decision on the authorization of certain alternative methods to be used in microbiological testing of meat intended for Finland and Sweden
- Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 on the control of salmonella and other specified foodborne zoonotic agents
- Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005 on implementing Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 as regards special guarantees concerning salmonella for consignments to Finland and Sweden of certain meat and eggs

#### SECTION III. SPECIFIC ATTESTATION REQUIRED ON THE EXPORT CERTIFICATE

Generally, the attestation required on the export certificate of salmonella guarantee is that there is no occurrence of salmonella infection disease.

Model formats of the export certificates are provided in Appendix I of this report. These can also be found in the EU regulation 1688/2005.

#### SECTION IV. GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Certificate of salmonella guarantee is valid for only one consignment. Therefore every consignment has to be controlled separately. The documents must be produced at least in triplicate and the original must accompany the consignment to the final destination. The consignee must retain the original certificate.

General principle is that certificates must be in the official languages of Finland, in Finnish or Swedish. However, English versions are also accepted. Please contact the Finnish Food Safety Authority and Customs for precise information.

Certificate of salmonella guarantee must be issued by the competent authority. Suppliers or Manufacturers Export Declaration is not accepted as proof of compliance.

The EU has a bilateral mutual equivalency veterinary trade agreement with the United States facilitating import procedures. However, the certificate requirements must be respected.

#### APPENDIX I.

## Model commercial document for consignment to Finland and Sweden of meat from bovine or porcine animals or meat from poultry, including minced meat

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ROPEAN COMMUNITY	Eggs for human consumption	dispatched to Finland and			
II. Health information	II(a) Certificate reference number	II(b) Local reference number			
Attestation  I, the undersigned, hereby certify that:					
<ul> <li>(i) the eggs described above originate from a flock which has been subjected, with negative results, to the checks provided for in Commission Regulation [] (*);</li> </ul>					
(ii) the eggs are destined to be used for the manufacture of processed products by a process that guarantees the elimination of salmonella (*).					
Notes					
(*) Box reference No L10: the registration number(s) of rail-wagon or lony and the name of the ship should be given as appropriate. If known, the flight number of the aircraft. (*) Box reference No L23: in case of transport in containers or boxes, the total number, their registration and seal numbers, if present, should be indicated. (*) Box reference No L31: for 'targeory', indicate class A or B as in revised Council Regulation (EC) No 1907/90.					
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